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PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

Sunday, 02 August 2026

§1 · TOP 11 HEADLINES

1. Supreme Court: married daughters cannot be excluded from compassionate appointments — Bihar policy struck down **GS2**
2. Union Cabinet approves PM-KISAN extension till 2030-31 with ₹3.15 lakh crore outlay **GS2**
3. Union Cabinet approves revamped Khelo India Scheme and enhanced ANSF support — ₹36,441 crore **GS2**
4. PM Modi holds call with new UK PM Andy Burnham, reaffirms India-UK Vision 2035 **GS2**
5. HAL awards ₹2,205 crore contract to Astra Microwave for Uttam AESA radar systems **GS3**
6. India advances indigenous astronaut technologies for Gaganyaan and Bharatiya Antariksh Station **GS3**
7. Union Cabinet approves "PM Surya Sarovar Yojana" — ₹5,070 crore floating solar scheme **GS3**
8. India's GST collections rise 15.4% to ₹2.11 lakh crore in July 2026 **GS3**
9. Supreme Court directs national compensation framework for stray-cattle road accidents **ENV**
10. Species in News: the Great Indian Bustard — Rajasthan's vanishing desert icon **ENV**
11. Places in News: Patna, Sangrur, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Jaisalmer and New Delhi feature today **ENV**

§2 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GS2 Fundamental Rights · Gender Equality

23 July 2026 (still widely reported this week) · Source: LiveLaw / Bar & Bench

Supreme Court: Married Daughters Cannot Be Excluded from Compassionate Appointments

Why in News: A bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale set aside a Bihar government policy restricting compassionate appointment eligibility to only divorced or deserted daughters, holding that "any classification differentiating a daughter from a son is, per se, unconstitutional" — a ruling still widely discussed this week as a landmark gender-equality precedent.

Background: Compassionate appointment schemes allow a dependent of a deceased government employee to be appointed on humanitarian grounds; states have periodically framed restrictive eligibility conditions that courts have had to test against Article 14's equality guarantee.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Ruling dated July 23, 2026; Bench: Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale.
- Struck down Bihar's policy limiting compassionate appointment to only divorced/deserted daughters, excluding married daughters.
- Rejected the presumption that a married daughter "severs ties" with her parental family.
- Directed Bihar to reconsider the appellant's (Sayara Khatoun's daughter's) claim on merits within eight weeks.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "marriage doesn't sever the surname's claim" — the Court rejected the very premise that marriage ends a daughter's ties to her birth family for compassionate-appointment purposes.

 **PYQ LINKAGE**

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Supreme Court's ruling on Bihar's compassionate appointment policy primarily invoked: (a) Article 15 (b) Article 14 (c) Article 21 (d) Article 39. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

Article 14

Compassionate Appointment

Gender Equality

GS2

Welfare Scheme · Agriculture

1 August 2026 · Source: PIB

Union Cabinet Approves PM-KISAN Extension Till 2030-31 With ₹3.15 Lakh Crore Outlay

Why in News: The Union Cabinet approved continuation of the PM-KISAN Scheme from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a total financial outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore, ensuring uninterrupted income support to landholding farmer families.

Background: Launched in 2019, PM-KISAN provides eligible farmer families ₹6,000 per year in three equal instalments via Direct Benefit Transfer; nearly ₹4.5 lakh crore has been disbursed under the scheme to date, with women farmers receiving over ₹1.06 lakh crore.

 KEY FACTS

- Cabinet approval dated August 1, 2026; extension period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31; outlay ₹3.15 lakh crore.
- Per-farmer benefit remains ₹6,000/year, disbursed in three equal instalments via DBT.
- NITI Aayog's DMEO evaluation found 92%+ beneficiaries used funds for agricultural investment.
- Nearly one in four beneficiaries is a woman farmer; over ₹1.06 lakh crore disbursed to women to date.

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "6-3.15-92" — ₹6,000/year per farmer, ₹3.15 lakh crore total outlay, and 92% usage-for-agriculture rate from the DMEO evaluation.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2020: "'Ensuring Farmers' Income Security' — critically evaluate income-support schemes." (PM-KISAN as a direct-transfer model)

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. PM-KISAN provides eligible farmer families with annual financial assistance of: (a) ₹4,000 (b) ₹6,000 (c) ₹8,000 (d) ₹10,000. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

PM-KISAN

DBT

Farmer Welfare

GS2

Sports Governance

1-2 August 2026 · Source: PIB / The Statesman

Union Cabinet Approves Revamped Khelo India Scheme and Enhanced ANSF Support — ₹36,441 Crore

Why in News: The Union Cabinet approved a revamped Khelo India Scheme along with enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs), with a combined outlay of ₹36,441 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31 — described by the government as the country's most ambitious sports development programme since Independence.

Background: Khelo India was launched in 2018 to build a sports culture at the grassroots and identify talent through a structured competition and scholarship pipeline; this revamp restructures the scheme to create a continuous pathway from school sport to Olympic podium.

 KEY FACTS

- Combined outlay ₹36,441 crore (₹29,054 crore for Khelo India; ₹7,387 crore for ANSFs) for 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- Introduces Khelo India Feeder Schools and Utkrishta Vidyalayas, and expands the athlete pool nearly ten-fold via the "Emerging Khelo India Athletes" category.
- ANSF funding covers coaching, sports science, modern equipment, foreign experts and international exposure.
- Also supports sports cooperation with Global South countries and promotion of India's indigenous sports.

🧠 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "29+7=36" — ₹29,054 crore (Khelo India) plus ₹7,387 crore (ANSF support) sums to the ₹36,441 crore combined outlay headline figure.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Government schemes for sports development and grassroots talent identification."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The revamped Khelo India Scheme and ANSF support (2026-27 to 2030-31) carries a combined outlay of: (a) ₹29,000 crore (b) ₹36,441 crore (c) ₹52,000 crore (d) ₹84,084 crore. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

Khelo India

ANSF

Sports Governance

§3 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS2

Strategic Partnership

31 July 2026 · Source: MEA / PM India

PM Modi Holds Call With New UK PM Andy Burnham, Reaffirms India-UK Vision 2035

Why in News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a congratulatory telephone call from the United Kingdom's new Prime Minister Andy Burnham on July 31, 2026, during which both leaders agreed to deepen cooperation across technology, defence, clean energy and education under the India-UK Vision 2035 framework.

Background: The India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has deepened significantly since the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) entered into force in 2026, with Vision 2035 setting out a long-term roadmap for bilateral cooperation across technology, defence and people-to-people ties.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Call took place July 31, 2026, following Andy Burnham's assumption of office as UK Prime Minister.
- Leaders reaffirmed commitment to the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and Vision 2035 roadmap.
- Discussed cooperation in technology, innovation, defence, security, clean energy and education.
- Welcomed the recent entry into force of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

🧠 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "CETA is in force, Vision 2035 is the roadmap" — do not confuse the trade agreement (already operational) with the broader long-term strategic vision document.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "India's evolving bilateral partnerships — trade agreements as instruments of strategic cooperation."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is associated with a long-term cooperation roadmap known as: (a) Vision 2030 (b) Vision 2035 (c) Roadmap 2047 (d) Strategic Partnership 2040. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

India-UK CETA

Vision 2035

Strategic Partnership

§4 · DEFENCE & SECURITY

GS3

Defence Indigenisation · Radar Technology

30 July 2026 · Source: Business Standard / idrw.org

HAL Awards ₹2,205 Crore Contract to Astra Microwave for Uttam AESA Radar Systems

Why in News: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) placed a ₹2,205.23 crore order with Astra Microwave Products for 122 Airborne Active Antenna Units and 121 Interface Frames for the indigenous Uttam AESA fire-control radar, destined for 97 Tejas Mk1A fighter jets.

Background: The Uttam AESA (Active Electronically Scanned Array) radar is an indigenously developed fire-control radar for the Tejas fighter family, reducing dependence on imported radar systems and marking the programme's transition from development to large-scale series production.

KEY FACTS

- Contract announced July 30, 2026; value ₹2,205.23 crore for 122 Active Antenna Units + 121 Interface Frames.
- Destined for the Indian Air Force's fleet of 97 Tejas Mk1A fighter jets.
- Delivery timeline spans five years, concluding in FY 2031.
- Marks the Uttam radar programme's shift from development to large-scale manufacturing.

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "Uttam means 'best' — and AESA radars are the best-in-class fire-control tech" — Uttam is indigenous, distinguishing it from imported radars on earlier Tejas variants.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Defence indigenisation — Make in India in aerospace and radar/avionics manufacturing."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The indigenous Uttam AESA radar is being fitted to which fighter jet? (a) Su-30MKI (b) Tejas Mk1A (c) Rafale (d) MiG-29. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

Uttam AESA Radar

Tejas Mk1A

HAL

§5 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS3

Human Spaceflight · Self-Reliance

Informed to Parliament, early August 2026 · Source: PIB / Deccan Herald

India Advances Indigenous Development of Critical Astronaut Technologies

Why in News: Minister of State in the PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh, informed Parliament that flight suits, crew seats and viewports for Gaganyaan missions — currently sourced abroad — have now been sanctioned for indigenous design and development, with prototype hardware already underway.

Background: India's Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), approved by the Cabinet in October 2024 with the first module targeted for 2028, depends on human-spaceflight-critical systems; ISRO has already developed the Human-Rated Launch Vehicle HLV-M3, crew escape systems and docking technology, but astronaut-facing hardware has so far relied on foreign sourcing.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Indigenous design/development sanctioned for flight suits, crew seats and viewports; prototype hardware already underway.
- ISRO has completed Baseline Design Review and System Engineering for the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, releasing 31 baseline design documents.
- HLV-M3 (Human Rated Launch Vehicle), crew escape systems, and docking technology already developed indigenously.
- BAS's first module is targeted for launch in 2028; remaining modules will build on this indigenous foundation.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "suits, seats, and sight" — flight suits, crew seats, and viewports are the three astronaut-facing systems now going indigenous, distinct from the already-indigenous launch vehicle and docking systems.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "India's human spaceflight programme — Gaganyaan and self-reliance in critical technologies."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Bharatiya Antariksh Station's first module is targeted for launch in: (a) 2027 (b) 2028 (c) 2030 (d) 2032. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

Gaganyaan

Bharatiya Antariksh Station

Atmanirbharta

§6 · ECONOMY

GS3

Renewable Energy

1 August 2026 · Source: PIB / SolarQuarter

Union Cabinet Approves "PM Surya Sarovar Yojana" — ₹5,070 Crore Floating Solar Scheme

Why in News: The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY), allocating ₹5,070 crore to develop 5,000 MW of floating solar photovoltaic projects with co-located energy storage systems of at least two hours' duration (10,000 MWh).

Background: India's floating solar installed capacity currently stands at around 700 MW; floating solar panels on reservoirs and water bodies reduce land-acquisition conflicts and water evaporation while generating clean power, making them an attractive complement to ground-mounted solar.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Outlay ₹5,070 crore; scheme period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with disbursements continuing till FY 2032-33.
- Targets 5,000 MW of floating solar with co-located energy storage (minimum 10,000 MWh storage capacity).
- Central Financial Assistance: ₹1 crore per MW post-commissioning, plus up to ₹50 lakh for feasibility studies.
- Current floating solar capacity ~700 MW — the scheme aims to expand this more than sevenfold.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "1 crore per MW, 2 hours minimum storage" — the two headline numbers that distinguish PM-SSY's financial assistance structure from other solar schemes.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2022: "What are the salient features of 'National Solar Mission'?" (floating solar as an emerging sub-component of India's solar strategy)

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The PM Surya Sarovar Yojana targets floating solar capacity addition of: (a) 2,000 MW (b) 3,500 MW (c) 5,000 MW (d) 7,500 MW. **Answer:** (c).

GS3

PM Surya Sarovar Yojana

Floating Solar

Energy Storage

GS3

Fiscal Indicators

Released 1 August 2026, for July 2026 · Source: GST Council / ANI

India's GST Collections Rise 15.4% to ₹2.11 Lakh Crore in July 2026

Why in News: India's gross GST revenue rose 15.4% year-on-year to over ₹2.11 lakh crore in July 2026, with import-linked collections growing nearly 29% and domestic collections rising over 10%, signalling continued formalisation and steady demand.

Background: GST collections are tracked as a key indicator of consumption, trade and formalisation trends in the economy; monthly gross and net figures (post-refunds) are released around the 1st of each month for the preceding month by the GST Department.

KEY FACTS

- Gross GST revenue, July 2026: ₹2.11 lakh crore, up 15.4% YoY.
- Domestic gross GST revenue rose 10.1% to ₹1.45 lakh crore; import-linked revenue rose 28.8% to ₹66,511 crore.
- Net GST revenue (post-refunds) rose 15.8% YoY to ₹1.81 lakh crore.
- April-July 2026 cumulative gross GST collections: ₹8.43 lakh crore, up 10.1% YoY.

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "imports outgrew domestic" — 28.8% import-GST growth outpaced 10.1% domestic growth, a nuance worth flagging in any answer citing this data.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "GST as an indicator of economic formalisation and consumption trends."

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India's gross GST collection for July 2026 stood at approximately: (a) ₹1.81 lakh crore (b) ₹1.95 lakh crore (c) ₹2.11 lakh crore (d) ₹2.30 lakh crore. **Answer:** (c).

GS3

GST Collections

Fiscal Indicators

July 2026

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